



H I S T O R Y
O F
ALCANDER AND SEPTIMIUS.

ATHERNS, even long after the decline of the Roman empire, still continued the seat of learning, politeness and wisdom.

The Emperor and the generals, who in those periods of approaching ignorance, still felt a passion for science, from time to time added to its buildings or increased its professorships. Theodoric, the Ostrogoth, was of the number; he repaired those schools which

which barbarity was suffering to fall into decay, and continued those pensions to men of learning, which avaritious governors had monopolized to themselves.

In this city, and about this period, Alcander and Septimius were fellow students together; the one the most sublime reasoner of all the Lyceum, the other the most eloquent speaker in the academic grove. Mutual admiration soon begot an acquaintance, and a similitude of disposition made them perfect friends. Their fortunes were nearly equal, their studies the same, and they were natives of the two most celebrated cities in the world. It was therefore mutually resolved they would never separate; and as a step previous to this, Alcander placed his affections on Hypatia, a lady of exquisite beauty. Hypatia shewed no dislike to his addresses.

The day of their intended nuptials was fixed, the previous ceremonies were performed and nothing now remained but her being conducted in triumph to the apartment of the intended bridegroom.

An exultation in his own happiness, or his being unable to enjoy any satisfaction without making his friend Septimius a partner, prevailed upon him to introduce his mistress to his fellow student, which he did with all the gaiety of a man who found himself equally happy in friendship and love. But this was an-